

539,981

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
8 July 2004 (08.07.2004)

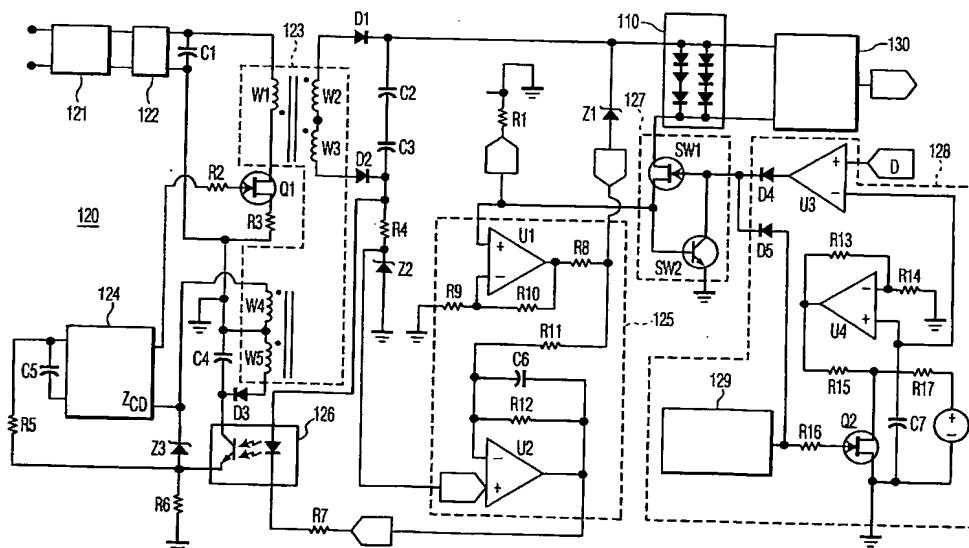
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/057924 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H05B 33/08**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/005992
- (22) International Filing Date:
11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/434,550 19 December 2002 (19.12.2002) US
- (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL). **NARASIMHAN, Raghuram** [IN/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **KHETARPAL, Rohit** [IN/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **TRIPATHI, Ajay** [IN/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **CLAUBERG, Bernd** [NL/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **MIN, Young-Kee** [US/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).
- (74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.**; c/o KRAUS, Robert, J., P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LEDS DRIVER



(57) Abstract: The power supply (120) for LEDs provides power to a LED light source (110) having a variable number of LEDs wired in series and/or in parallel. The power supply (120) uses current and voltage feedback to adjust power to the LEDs and provides protection to the LED light source (110). A feedback controller (125) compares sensed current and sensed voltage to a reference signal and generates a feedback signal, which is processed by a power factor corrector (124) to adjust the current flow through the protection to the LED light source (110). A LED control switch (127) clamps a peak of the current to the LEDs to provide further light source (110). A short/open detection circuit (130) indicates any detection of a "LED outage" of the LED

WO 2004/057924 A1

WO 04/057924 A1



Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations

LED DRIVER

The technical field of this disclosure is power supplies, particularly, a power supply for LEDs.

5 Significant advances have been made in the technology of white light emitting diodes (LEDs). White light LEDs are commercially available which generate 10-15 lumens/watt. This is comparable to the performance of incandescent bulbs. In addition, LEDs offer other advantages such as longer operating life, shock/vibration resistance and design flexibility because of their small size. As a result, white light LEDs are replacing traditional
10 incandescent sources for illumination applications such as signage, accenting, and pathway lighting. The white LEDs can be used alone or in conjunction with colored LEDs for a particular effect.

 The electrical characteristics of LEDs are such that small changes in the voltage applied to the LED lamp will cause appreciable current changes. In addition, ambient
15 temperature changes will also result in LED current changes by changing the forward drop across the LEDs. Furthermore, the lumen output of LEDs depends on the LED current. The existing electrical power supplies for LED light sources are not designed to precisely regulate the LED current to prevent luminous intensity variations due to input ac voltage variations and ambient temperature. Operation of LED lamps at excessive forward current for a long
20 period can cause unacceptable luminous intensity variations and even catastrophic failure. In addition, current electrical power supplies do not minimize power consumption to maximize energy savings.

 It would be desirable to have a power supply for LEDs that would overcome the above disadvantages.

25 One form of the present invention is a power supply for a LED light source that comprises a power converter and a LED control switch. The power converter operates to provide a regulated power including a LED current and a LED voltage. The LED control switch further operates to control a flow of the LED current through the LED light source. The LED control switch further operates to clamp a peak of the LED current during an initial
30 loading stage of the LED light source. This prevents damage to the LED light source due to a field misapplication.

A second form of the present invention is a power supply for a LED light source further comprising a detection circuit operating to provide a detection signal indicative of an operating condition of the LED light source associated with the LED voltage. The detection signal has a first level representative of a load condition of the LED light source. The
5 detection signal has a second level representative of a short condition or an open condition indicative of the LED light source.

A third form of the present invention is a power supply for a LED light source further comprising a LED current sensor or a LED voltage sensor. Each sensor includes a differential amplifier and means for adjusting a gain of the differential amplifier.

10 The foregoing forms as well as other forms, features and advantages of the present invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the present invention rather than limiting, the scope of the present invention being defined by the appended claims and
15 equivalents thereof.

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a power supply for an LED light source in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic diagram of one embodiment of the **FIG. 1** power supply in accordance with the present invention;

20 **FIG. 3** illustrates a timing diagram of one embodiment of a control circuit in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a short/open detection circuit in accordance with the present invention; and

25 **FIG. 5** illustrates a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a differential amplification circuit in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a power supply **20** for powering an LED light source **10** including a variable number of LEDs wired in series and/or in parallel. A single-phase ac input **21** of power supply **20** provides a voltage V_{AC} to an AC/DC converter **22** of power supply **20** whereby AC/DC converter **22** converts voltage V_{AC} into a voltage V_{DC} .
30 AC/DC converter **22** provides voltage V_{DC} to a power converter **23** of power supply **20** whereby power converter **23** generates a regulated power P_{REG} including a LED current and a LED voltage V_{LED} .

Power converter 23 provides regulated power P_{REG} to LED light source 10. In operation, LED control switch 24 controls a flow of the LED current through the LED light source 10. A LED current sensor 25 of power supply 20 provides a sensed current I_{SE} indicative of a magnitude of the LED current flowing through LED light source 10. A LED voltage sensor 26 of power supply 20 provides a sensed voltage V_{SE} indicative of a magnitude of the LED voltage V_{LED} applied to LED light source 10. Sensed current I_{SE} and sensed voltage V_{SE} are fed to a feedback controller 27 of power supply 20. A signal reference 28 of power supply 20 provides a reference signal REF to a feedback controller 27, whereby feedback controller 27 provides a feedback signal FB to power converter 23 based on sensed current I_{SE} , sensed voltage V_{SE} and reference signal REF.

LED control switch 24 further operates to clamp a peak of LED current flowing through LED light source 10 to thereby protect the LED light source 10 from electrical damage. LED control switch 24 is particularly useful when LED light source 10 transitions from an open operating state to a load operating state (i.e., an initial loading), such as, for example, a connection of LED light source 10 to power supply 20 subsequent to an energizing of power supply 20. An LED dimmer 29 of power supply 20 operates to control a desired dimming of LED light source 10 by providing a control signal CS to LED control switch 24. Control signal CS can be in one of many conventional forms, such as, for example, a pulse width modulation signal ("PWM").

A short/open detection circuit 30 provides a detection signal DS as an indication of a short condition or an open condition of LED light source 10 based on the LED voltage V_{LED} applied to LED light source 10.

The configuration of each component 21-30 of power supply 20 is without limit. Additionally, coupling among the components 21-30 of power supply 20 can be achieved in numerous ways (e.g., electrically, optically, acoustically, and/or magnetically). The number of embodiments of power supply 20 is therefore essentially limitless.

FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic diagram of one embodiment 120 of power supply 20 (FIG. 1) for one embodiment 110 of LED light source 10 (FIG. 1) made in accordance with the present invention. Power supply 120 employs a flyback transformer with current feedback through a power factor corrector ("PFC") IC to supply power to LED light source 110. To this end, power supply 120 includes an EMI filter 121, an AC/DC converter ("AC/DC") 122, a transformer 123, a power factor corrector 124, a feedback controller 125, an optocoupler 126, a LED control switch 127, a LED PWM dimmer 129, resistors R1-R7,

capacitors **C1-C5**, diodes **D1-D3**, zener diodes **Z1-Z3** and a MOSFET **Q1** as illustrated in **FIG. 2**.

Voltage is supplied to power supply **120** at V_{IN} to EMI filter **121**. The voltage can be an ac input and is typically 50/60 Hertz at 120/230 V_{RMS} . EMI filter **121** blocks
5 electromagnetic interference on the input. AC/DC **122** can be a bridge rectifier and converts the ac output of EMI filter **120** to dc. Transformer **123** includes a primary winding **W1**, **W4** and **W5**, and a plurality of secondary windings **W2** and **W3**. The windings **W1/W2** constitute the flyback transformer to power the LED light source **110**. The flyback transformer is controlled by PFC **124**, which is a power factor corrector integrated circuit,
10 such as model L6561 manufactured by ST Microelectronics, Inc.

The flyback transformer transfers power to LED light source **110** where the LED current and the LED voltage are controlled by feedback control. The forward converter operation of windings **W1/W3** charge a capacitor **C3** and a reference current signal is generated between a series resistor **R4** and a zener **Z2**. The peak voltage across capacitor **C3**
15 depends on the **W1/W3** turns ratio. The output dc voltage from flyback operation of windings **W1/W2** cannot be used to generate the reference current signal since the output dc voltage across LED light source **110** can have a wide range - from 2.6 Volts dc for one LED lamp to about 32 Volts dc for 8 LEDs in series. The forward converter operation of windings **W1/W3** can be used instead. The forward converter operation of the **W1/W5** windings can
20 also be used to supply power to the integrated circuits, such as PFC **124**.

A sensed LED current I_{SE} flows through resistor **R1**, which is in series with the LED light source **110** via LED control switch **127**. A voltage representative of sensed LED current I_{SE} is applied to a non-inverting input of a comparator **U1**. A sensed LED voltage V_{SE} is generated by zener diode **Z1**. Sensed LED current I_{SE} and sensed LED voltage V_{SE} as well
25 as a voltage reference V_{REF} are fed to feedback controller **125**, whereby a voltage feedback V_{FB} from feedback controller **125** drives an optocoupler **126** via resistor **R7**. In generating voltage feedback V_{FB} , feedback controller **125** employs a pair of comparators **U1** and **U2**, resistors **R8-R12**, and a capacitor **C6** as illustrated in **FIG. 2**.

Feedback controller **125** is necessary since optocouplers have a wide range of current transfer ratio (CTR). Feedback controller **125** maintains an accurate voltage feedback V_{FB} to thereby avoid large errors in LED current flowing through LED light source **110**. Optocoupler **126** isolates the dc circuit supplying the LED light source **110** from the ac circuit power supply at EMI filter **120**, the two circuits being on the opposite sides of the
30

transformer 123.

The output of the optocoupler 126 is connected to PFC 124, which supplies a gate drive signal to MOSFET Q1. Control of MOSFET Q1 adjusts the current flow through winding W1 of transformer 123 to match the LED light source 110 power demand. The internal 2.5 V reference signal and an internal compensation circuit of PFC 124 maintains the voltage drop across a resistor R6 at 2.5V. Although this example uses MOSFET Q1 for adjusting the transformer current, alternate embodiments can use other types of transistors to adjust the current, such as an insulated gate bipolar transistor ("IGBT") or a bipolar transistor. The input to PFC 124 at Z_{CD} provides a reset signal powered from windings W2/W4.

Zener diode Z1 also provides overvoltage protection for LED light source 110. Specifically, zener diode Z1 connects across the output connection to the LED light source 110 and clamps the output voltage to a specified maximum value. The nominal zener operating voltage is selected to be just over the maximum specified output voltage. In case of an output open circuit, the flyback operation of windings W1/W2 of transformer 123 would continue to build the output voltage. The increasing output voltage turns on the zener diode Z1 to thereby increase the amount of feedback to resistor R6 from feedback controller 125 via resistor R7 and optocoupler 126. This limits the gate drive signal to MOSFET Q1, preventing the flyback converter from building the output voltage to the LED light source 110 beyond a specified maximum voltage. Similarly, zener diode Z3 connected from the reset winding W4 to resistor R6 will prevent output overvoltage due to a malfunction of feedback controller 125. In alternate embodiments, either zener diode Z1 or zener diode Z3, or both zener diode Z1 and zener diode Z3 can be omitted depending on the degree of control protection required for a particular application.

LED control switch 127 includes a switch SW1 in the form of a MOSFET and a switch SW2 in the form of a bipolar transistor. Switches SW1 and SW2 can be in other conventional forms, such as, for example, an IGBT. As illustrated, a drain of MOSFET switch SW1 is connected to LED light source 110. A gate of MOSFET switch SW1 is connected to a collector of bipolar switch SW2. A source of MOSFET switch SW1 and a base of bipolar switch SW2 are connected to zener diode Z1, resistor R1, and feedback controller 125. An emitter of bipolar switch SW2 is connected to ground. In operation, switch SW1 is turned on and switch SW2 is turned off when the LED current is below the desired peak. This mode permits a normal operation of the front-end components of power supply 120. Conversely, switch SW1 is turned off and switch SW2 is turned on when the

LED current exceeds the desired peak. This limits the peak of the LED current to a safe level whereby damage to LED light source 110 is prevented. As will be appreciated by one having skill in the art, LED control switch 127 is particularly useful upon a connection of LED light source 110 to an energized power supply 120 whereby capacitor C2 discharges stored energy to LED light source 110 with a current having a peak clamped to thereby prevent damage to LED light source 110.

MOSFET switch SW1 can be operated by a conventional gate driver (not shown) or by an illustrated LED PWM dimmer 128.

LED PWM dimmer 128 provides a PWM signal (not shown) to MOSFET switch SW1 in response to an external dim command V_{DC} . LED PWM dimmer 128 adjusts the duty cycle of the PWM signal to thereby produce a desired light output from LED light source 110. LED PWM dimmer 128 is particularly useful in producing a precise and temperature sensitive minimum dim level for LED light source 110.

LED PWM dimmer 128 includes a diode D4 and a diode D5 connected to the gate of MOSFET switch SW1. A comparator U3 of LED PWM dimmer 128 is in the form of an operational amplifier having an output connected to diode D4 and a non-inverting input for receiving a dimming command V_{DC} . A conventional astable multivibrator circuit 129 of LED PWM dimmer 128 is connected to diode D5. A ramp generator of LED PWM dimmer 128 includes a resistor R16 connected to diode D5 and a gate of transistor Q2 in the form of a MOSFET. Transistor Q2 can be in other forms, such as, for example, an IGBT. The ramp generator further includes an operational amplifier U4. A resistor R15, a resistor R17, a drain of bipolar transistor Q2, a capacitor C7, and an inverting input of comparator U3 are connected to a non-inverting input of operational amplifier U4. Resistor R15 is further connected to an output of operational amplifier U4. A resistor R13 is connected to the output and an inverting input of operational amplifier U4. A resistor R14 is connected to the inverting input of operational amplifier U4 and ground. The source of MOSFET transistor Q2 and capacitor C7 are connected to ground. Resistor R17 is further connected to a DC voltage source.

In operation, LED PWM dimmer 128 achieves a precise and temperature insensitive minimum dim level for LED light source 110. Specifically, astable multivibrator circuit 129 produces a minimum pulse width (e.g., $T_{ON, MIN}$ illustrated in FIG. 3). The duration of the minimum pulse width is a function of a resistance and capacitance of astable multivibrator circuit 129. Thus, the minimum pulse width is accurate and temperature insensitive. The

ramp generator produces a ramp signal (e.g., **RS** illustrated in **FIG. 3**), which is periodically reset by the minimum pulse width. The ramp signal is supplied to the inverting input of comparator **U3** whereby a comparison of the ramp signal and dim command V_{DC} yields a target pulse width at the output of comparator **U3** (e.g., T_{ON} illustrated in **FIG. 3**). The minimum pulse width and the target pulse width are combined to provide the PWM signal at the gate of MOSFET switch **SW1**. As such, the PWM signal consists of the target pulse width overlapping the minimum pulse width when the dim command V_{DC} exceeds or is equal to the ramp signal. Conversely, the PWM signal exclusively consists of the minimum pulse width when the ramp signal exceeds the voltage dim command V_{DC} .

In practice, a suitable range for voltage dim command V_{DC} is 0 to 10 volts.

SHORT/OPEN CIRCUIT DETECTION

FIG. 4 illustrates one embodiment of short/open detection circuit **130**. A LED voltage drop V_{LD} across the LED light source **110** applied between a node **N1** and a node **N2**, and an input voltage V_{IN} is applied between node **N2** and a common reference. The LED voltage drop V_{LD} approximates zero (0) volts when LED light source **110** (**FIG. 2**) is shorted, and approximates the LED voltage V_{LED} of regulated power P_{REG} (**FIG. 1**) when LED light source **110** is an open circuit. The input voltage V_{IN} is typically in the range of six (6) volts to sixteen (16) volts. A comparator **U3** in the form of an operational amplifier provides a detection signal V_{DS} at a high level to indicate a "LED outage" condition of LED light source **110** and at a low level to indicate a normal operation of LED light source **110**. The "LED outage" condition is either indicative of a short or open of LED light source **110**.

Input voltage V_{IN} in the illustrated embodiment is a dc voltage. A dc-dc type power converter can therefore be used to supply power to LED light source **110** (**FIG. 2**). In alternative embodiments, detection circuit **130** can be adapted for use in ac to dc type power converters.

An emitter of a transistor **Q3** in the form of a bipolar transistor, and a zener diode **Z4** are also connected to node **N1**. Transistor **Q3** can be in other conventional forms, such as, for example, an IGBT. A resistor **R18**, a resistor **R21**, and a resistor **R22** are also connected to node **N2**. A base of bipolar transistor **Q3** is connected to resistor **R18**. Zener diode **Z4**, a resistor **R20** and resistor **R21** are connected to an inverting input of comparator **U5**. A collector of bipolar transistor **Q3**, a diode **D6**, and a resistor **R19** are connected to a node **N3**. Resistor **R19** and resistor **R20** are further connected to the common reference. Diode **D6** and

resistor **R22** are connected to a non-inverting input of comparator **U5**.

For a normal operation of LED light source **110**, the LED voltage drop V_{LD} is greater than the base-emitter junction voltage of transistor **Q3** whereby transistor **Q3** is on, diode **D6** is in a non-conductive state, and the voltage at the collector of transistor **Q3** exceeds the input voltage V_{IN} . As a result, the input voltage V_{IN} is applied to the inverting input of comparator **U3**. The conducting voltage of zener diode **Z4** is chosen to be above the LED voltage drop V_{LD} and therefore zener diode **Z4** is in a non-conductive state. As a result, a voltage applied to the non-inverting input of comparator **U2** will equate the input voltage V_{IN} reduced by a voltage divider factor established by resistor **R20** and resistor **R21**. The output of comparator **U5** will be low (e.g., close to ground) since the voltage applied to the inverting input exceeds the voltage applied to the non-inverting input.

For an open array condition of LED light source **110**, the LED voltage drop V_{LD} approximates the LED voltage V_{LED} of regulated power P_{REG} , which is chosen to be higher than the voltage of zener diode **Z4**. The LED voltage drop V_{LD} is greater than the base-emitter junction voltage of transistor **Q3** whereby transistor **Q3** is on and the voltage at the collector transistor **Q3** exceeds the input voltage V_{IN} . As a result, the input voltage V_{IN} is applied to the inverting input of comparator **U3**. The conducting voltage of zener diode **Z4** is lower than the LED voltage drop V_{LD} and zener diode **Z4** is therefore in a conductive state. As a result, a voltage applied to the non-inverting input of comparator **U5** will equate a summation of the input voltage V_{IN} and the LED voltage drop V_{LD} minus the conducting voltage of diode **D6**. The output of comparator **U5** will be high (e.g., close to the input voltage V_{IN}) since the voltage applied to the non-inverting input exceeds the voltage applied to the inverting input.

For a short array condition of LED light source **110**, the LED voltage drop V_{LD} approximates zero (0) volts. The LED voltage drop V_{LD} is therefore less than the base-emitter junction voltage of transistor **Q3** whereby transistor **Q3** is off, the voltage at the collector transistor is pulled down by resistor **R19** and diode **D6** is conducting. As a result, a voltage applied to the inverting input of comparator **U5** will equate the input voltage V_{IN} reduced by a voltage divider factor established by resistor **R19** and resistor **R22**. The conducting voltage of zener diode **Z4** exceeds the LED voltage drop V_{LD} and zener diode **Z4** is therefore in a non-conductive state. The output of comparator **U5** will be high (e.g., close to the input voltage V_{IN}) since the voltage applied to the non-inverting input exceeds the voltage applied to the inverting input.

In an alternate embodiment, an additional zener diode or a voltage reference can be inserted in the emitter path of transistor Q3 to detect a voltage level other than less than one base-emitter junction of transistor Q3.

FIG. 5 illustrates a differential amplification circuit having a voltage output V_O that can be employed in LED current sensor 25 (FIG. 1) or LED current sensor 26 (FIG. 1). A resistor R23 and a resistor R25 are connected to an offset voltage source V_{OFF} . Resistor R25, a resistor R26, and a resistor R28 are connected to an inverting input of an operational amplifier U6. A resistor R24 and a resistor R27 are connected to a non-inverting input of operational amplifier U6. Resistor R23 and resistor R24 are connected. Resistor R28 is further connected to an output of operational amplifier U6.

In operation, the voltages applied to the inputs of the operational amplifier U6 are lower than the supply voltage V_{dd} irrespective of the size of resistor R23. In one embodiment, resistors R25 and R26 are chosen to apply half of the offset voltage V_{OFF} to the inverting input of operational amplifier U6, and resistors R24 and R27 are chosen to obtain a proper common mode rejection (e.g., resistor R28 equaling a parallel combination of resistor R26 and R28). As a result, the gain of operational amplifier U6 can be adjusted as desired.

It is important to note that FIGS. 2-5 illustrates specific applications and embodiments of the present invention, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure or claims to that which is presented therein. Upon reading the specification and reviewing the drawings hereof, it will become immediately obvious to those skilled in the art that myriad other embodiments of the present invention are possible, and that such embodiments are contemplated and fall within the scope of the presently claimed invention.

While the embodiments of the invention disclosed herein are presently considered to be preferred, various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The scope of the invention is indicated in the appended claims, and all changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalents are intended to be embraced therein.

CLAIMS:

1. A power supply (20) for a LED light source (10), said power supply (20) comprising:
 - a power converter (23) operable to provide a regulated power including a LED current and a LED voltage; and
 - a LED control switch (24) operable to control a flow of the LED current through the LED light source (10),
 - wherein said LED control switch (24) is further operable to clamp a peak of the LED current during an initial loading stage of the LED light source (10).
2. The power supply (20) of claim 1, wherein said LED control switch (24) includes:
 - a switch (SW1) operable to establish a current path from the LED light source (10) to said power converter (23) when the LED current is below a peak threshold, said switch (SW1) further operable to eradicate the current path when the LED current is above the peak threshold.
3. The power supply (20) of claim 2, further comprising:
 - a LED PWM dimmer (29) operable to provide a pulse width modulation signal to said switch (SW1) in response to an external dim command,
 - wherein said pulse width modulation signal has a target pulse width in response to the dim command exceeding a ramp signal, and
 - wherein said pulse width modulation signal has a minimum pulse width in response to the ramp signal exceeding the dim command.
4. The power supply (20) of claim 3, wherein said LED PWM dimmer (29) includes:
 - an astable multivibrator circuit (129) operable to establish the minimum pulse width in a precise and temperature insensitive manner.

5. The power supply (20) of claim 2, wherein said LED PWM dimmer (29) includes:

a comparator (U3) operable to establish the target pulse width in response to a reception of the dim command and the ramp signal.

6. The power supply (20) of claim 5, wherein said LED PWM dimmer (29) further includes:

a ramp generator operable to provide the ramp signal to said comparator (U3) indicative of the minimum pulse width.

7. The power supply (20) of claim 6, wherein said LED PWM dimmer (29) further includes:

an astable multivibrator circuit (129) operable to establish the minimum pulse width in a precise and temperature insensitive manner.

8. The power supply (20) of claim 1, further comprising:
a detection circuit (30) operable to provide a detection signal indicative of an operating condition of the LED light source (10) associated with the LED voltage,
wherein the detection signal has a first level representative of a load condition of the LED light source (10), and
wherein the detection signal has a second level representative of either a short condition or an open condition of the LED light source (10).

9. The power supply (20) of claim 8, wherein the load operating condition indicates a magnitude of a LED voltage drop across the LED light source (10) is between zero volts and the LED voltage.

10. The power supply (20) of claim 8, wherein the short operating condition indicates a magnitude of a LED voltage drop across the LED light source (10) approximates zero volts.

11. The power supply (20) of claim 8, wherein the open operating condition indicates a magnitude of a LED voltage drop across the LED light source (10) approximates the LED voltage.
12. The power supply (20) of claim 1, further comprising:
a current sensor (25) operable to sense the LED current flowing through the LED light source (10), said current sensor (25) including
an operational amplifier (U6), and
means for adjusting a gain of said differential amplifier.
13. The power supply (20) of claim 1, further comprising:
a voltage sensor (26) operable to sense the LED voltage applied to the LED light source (10), said voltage sensor (26) including
an operational amplifier (U6), and
means for adjusting a gain of said differential amplifier.
14. A method of operating a LED light source (10), said method comprising:
providing a regulated power to the LED light source (10), the regulated power including a LED current and a LED voltage;
controlling a flow of the LED current through the LED light source (10); and
clamping a peak of the LED current during an initial loading stage of the LED light source (10).
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
generating a detection signal indicative of an operating condition of the LED light source (10) associated with the LED voltage,
wherein the detection signal has a first level representative of a normal operating condition of the LED light source (10), and
wherein the detection signal has a second level representative of either a short operating condition or an open operating condition of the LED light source (10).

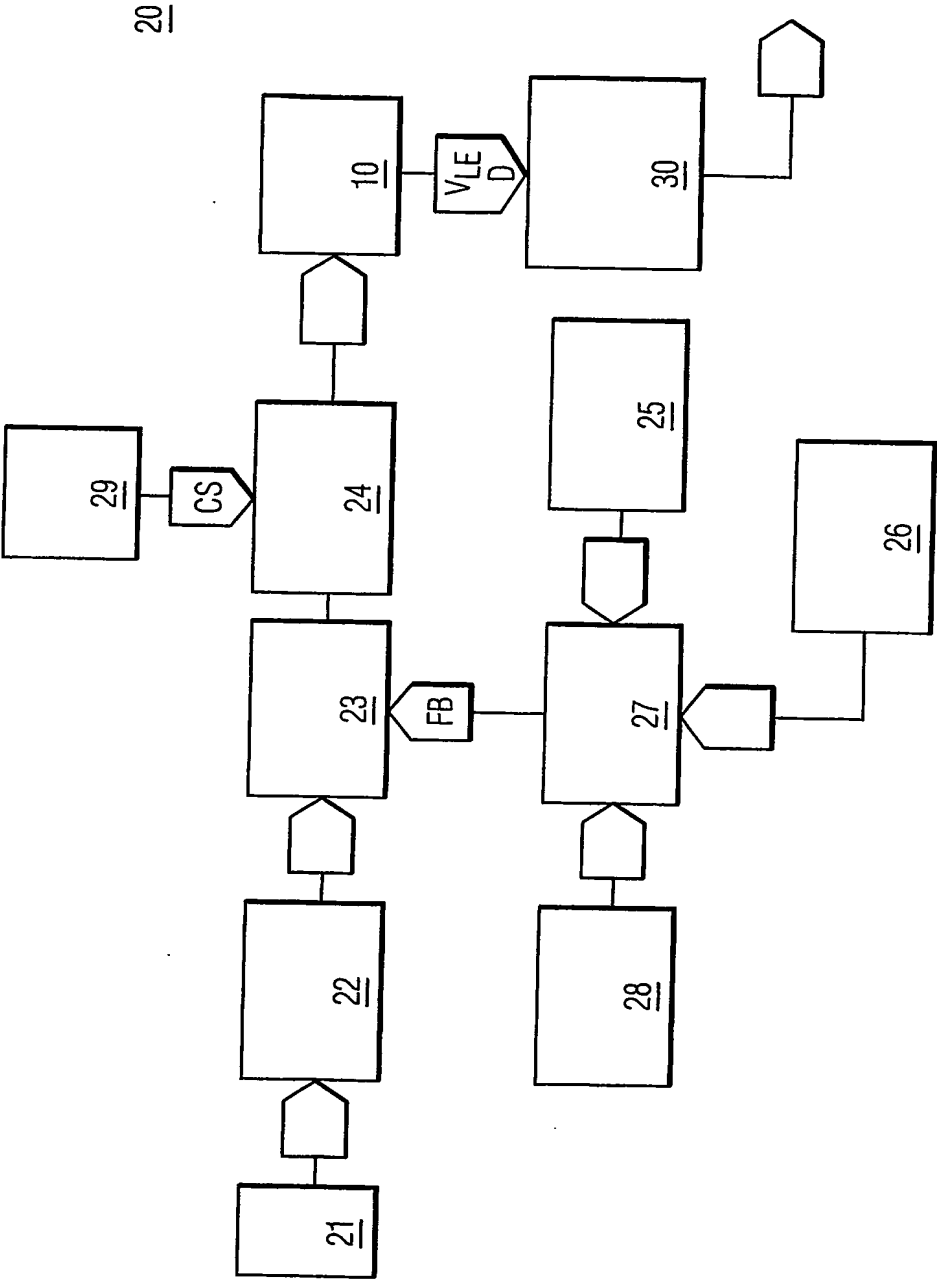


FIG. 1

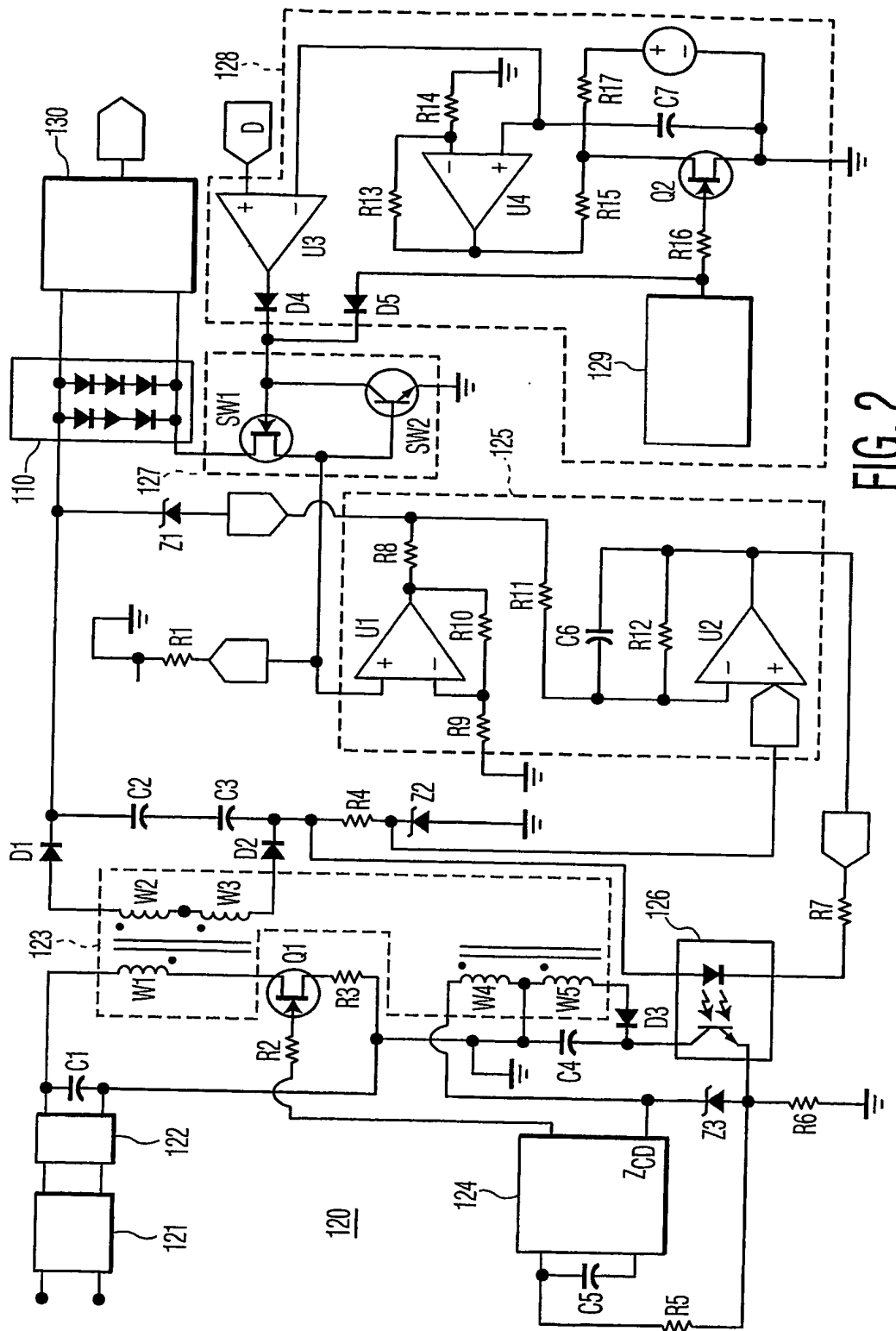


FIG. 2

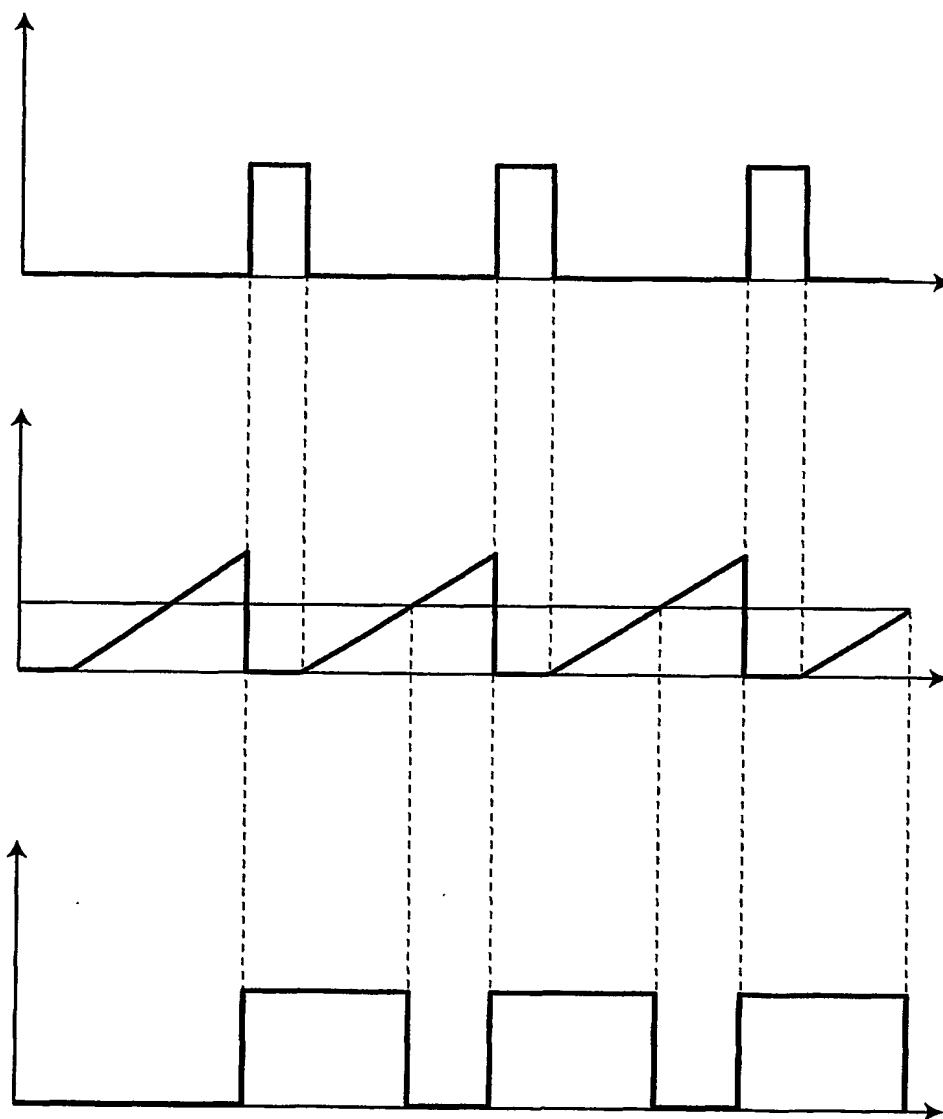


FIG. 3

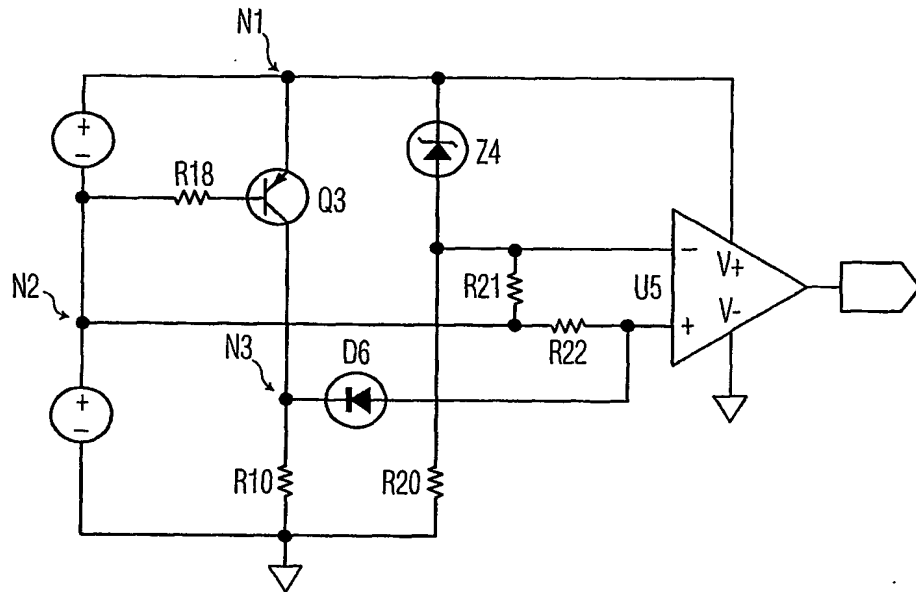


FIG. 4

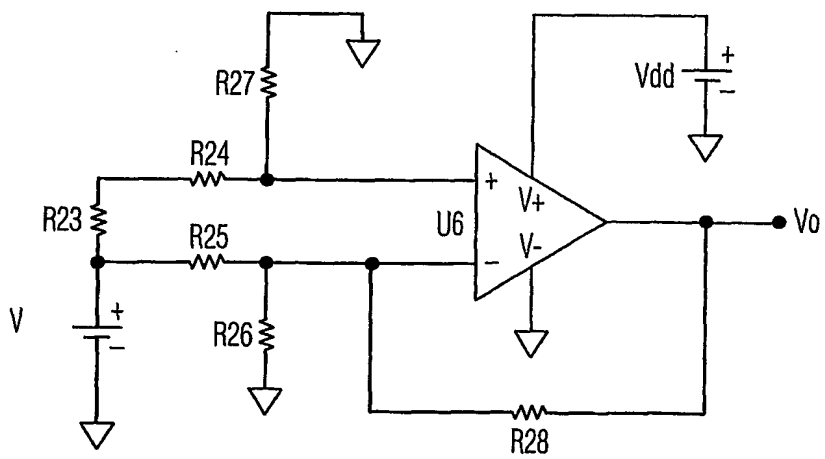


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inventor's Application No
PCT/JP 03/05992

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H05B33/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/158590 A1 (NARUKAWA TOSHIAKI ET AL) 31 October 2002 (2002-10-31)	1,2,
Y	paragraph '0073! - paragraph '0092!; figures 3,5,6	12-14 3-11,15
Y	US 6 400 101 B1 (HIRSCHMANN GUENTHER ET AL) 4 June 2002 (2002-06-04) column 2, line 24 - line 56; figure 4A	3-7
Y	WO 02 069839 A (DESIGN RITE LLC ;FREGOSO GILBERT (US)) 12 September 2002 (2002-09-12) paragraph '0028!; figure 3	8-11,15
X	DATASHEET: "LT1932 - Constant-Current DC/DC LED Driver in ThinSOT" 2001, LINEAR TECHNOLOGY XP002274447 page 4, column 1 -column 2; figure 1	1,2
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/04/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Boudet, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No.
PCT/JP 03/05992

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 736 881 A (ORTIZ JOE A) 7 April 1998 (1998-04-07) column 3, line 23 -column 4, line 7; figure 2 -----	1-15
A	US 6 057 651 A (USAMI YUTAKA) 2 May 2000 (2000-05-02) abstract; figure 1 ----	1-15
A	US 5 661 645 A (HOCHSTEIN PETER A) 26 August 1997 (1997-08-26) abstract; figure 5 ----	1-15
A	WO 01 69980 A (WERNER LUDORF ;BARTH ALEXANDER (AT); HEIN PETER (AT); TRIDONIC BAU) 20 September 2001 (2001-09-20) abstract; figure 1 -----	1-15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

P B 03/05992

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002158590	A1	31-10-2002	AU 1889201 A WO 0145470 A1	25-06-2001 21-06-2001
US 6400101	B1	04-06-2002	DE 19930174 A1 CA 2341657 A1 WO 0103474 A1 EP 1118251 A1 JP 2003504797 T	04-01-2001 11-01-2001 11-01-2001 25-07-2001 04-02-2003
WO 02069839	A	12-09-2002	US 6611110 B1 WO 02069839 A1	26-08-2003 12-09-2002
US 5736881	A	07-04-1998	CA 2159842 A1 DE 69515969 D1 DE 69515969 T2 EP 0716485 A1 ES 2144108 T3 IL 116239 A JP 8228026 A	06-06-1996 04-05-2000 04-01-2001 12-06-1996 01-06-2000 28-10-1999 03-09-1996
US 6057651	A	02-05-2000	JP 11067471 A CN 1209720 A	09-03-1999 03-03-1999
US 5661645	A	26-08-1997	AU 3399097 A CA 2259258 A1 EP 0907999 A1 WO 9750168 A1	14-01-1998 31-12-1997 14-04-1999 31-12-1997
WO 0169980	A	20-09-2001	DE 10013215 A1 AU 5620701 A WO 0169980 A1 EP 1273209 A1 US 2003117087 A1	20-09-2001 24-09-2001 20-09-2001 08-01-2003 26-06-2003